

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, November 18, 2005

MPDC SEEKS COMMENTS ON CHANGES TO CCTV SYSTEM

The MPDC is seeking public comment on recently announced changes to its Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system. In a Public Notice published in the DC Register of November 18, the MPDC released a revised list that now includes 19 permanent CCTV camera locations. The public may submit written comments to the Chief of Police, Metropolitan Police Department, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 5080, Washington, DC, 20001, or via e-mail at mail.chief-of-police@dc.gov. To further publicize its use of CCTV, the MPDC recently posted street signs generally within the viewable area of the Department's permanent cameras, to provide meaningful notice to individuals of the areas where monitoring may occur. The Department's CCTV system is a secure, wireless network operated by the MPDC. The cameras are mounted on various buildings primarily in the downtown DC area. They focus on public spaces around the National Mall, the US Capitol, the White House, Union Station and other critical installations, as well as major arteries and highways that pass through downtown DC. The CCTV system is not a round-the-clock video monitoring operation. The system is activated to support public safety operations during major events (such as large-scale demonstrations, the Fourth of July celebration, Presidential Inaugurations, etc.) or periods of heightened alert for terrorism. CCTV camera feeds are displayed in the MPDC's Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC), a secure facility located on the 5th floor of Police Headquarters. The MPDC's use of CCTV is designed to ensure the protection of personal privacy rights. Both DC regulations and internal MPDC policy expressly prohibit the arbitrary monitoring of individuals based on race, gender or other factors, and they prohibit the use of the CCTV system for the purpose of infringing on First Amendment rights.

- ① Read the full news release, which lists the 19 camera locations, at:
<http://app.mpdcc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=216000>
- ① For additional information on the MPDC's CCTV system, go to:
[Closed Circuit Television \(CCTV\) System](#)
- ① To request a presentation on CCTV for a community group, contact Captain Victor Brito at (202) 724-4483 or victor.brito@dc.gov.

REPORTS OF HATE CRIMES IN DC INCREASED DURING 2004, AS OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS EXPANDED

The number of hate crimes reported to the police in DC increased again during 2004, reflecting continued efforts to educate the community and encourage more reporting by victims. According to the FBI's annual Hate Crime Statistics report, 49 crimes motivated by hatred or bias were reported in DC during 2004. That compares with 31 incidents reported in 2003, 14 in 2002, and 11 in 2001. Of the 49 incidents recorded during 2004, 44 were reported to the MPDC and 5 were reported to the Metro Transit Police. Of the 49 reported hate crimes last year, 29 involved a bias motivation related to sexual orientation, 14 involved race, 4 involved ethnicity and 2 were related to religion and ethnicity. Realizing that only a small percentage of bias-motivated crimes are actually reported to the police, the MPDC and other agencies in the DC Bias Crimes Task Force have worked to educate officers and community members about the existence, risks and ways to report hate crimes in DC. As a result, reported bias crimes have increased each year since 1998, when only 2 such crimes were reported. Nationwide, reported hate crime incidents increased slightly, from 7,489 in 2003 to 7,649 last year.

- ① Review the 2004 hate crime report on the FBI website at:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2004/openpage.htm>
- ① For more detailed information on hate crimes in DC, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547599,mpdcNav_GID,1553.asp
- ① To encourage victims of hate crimes to report the offenses, the MPDC operates a Hate Crimes Hotline, (202) 727-0500.

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING REACHES A RECORD LOW RATE IN DC'S PHOTO RADAR ENFORCEMENT ZONES

Aggressive speeding in DC's photo radar enforcement zones reached a record low rate during October 2005, dropping below 3 percent for the first time in the program's four-year history. Of the 2.16 million vehicles that passed through photo radar enforcement zones during October 2005, just under 54,000 – or about 2.5 percent – were found to be speeding aggressively. That compares with aggressive speeding rates of 25-30 percent at the start of the program in the summer of 2001. The aggressive speeding rate hit a record low, even as a record high number of vehicles – more than 2.1 million – passed through photo radar enforcement zones during October. The increase in vehicles monitored by photo radar was largely the result of the deployment of additional stationary cameras. In October 2003, by contrast, there were about half as many vehicles monitored by photo radar (1.14 million), but 50 percent more aggressive speeders detected (81,229). Average speeds on all DC roadways — especially residential streets – continue to be substantially lower today than they were when the program began. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, for example, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was 24.8 mph in October 2005. That is down from 35.5 mph in July 2001. Since August 2001, just over 1.6 million Notices of Infraction have been mailed and nearly 1.2 million paid, resulting in fines of \$89.2 million. This level of consistent enforcement has been achieved without taking officers from other community policing assignments or otherwise diminishing public safety services in DC's neighborhoods.

GETTING A JUMP START ON THE HOLIDAYS? DON'T FORGET SAFETY

While the Friday after Thanksgiving is traditionally considered the first day of the holiday shopping season, that start date seems to come earlier and earlier each year. Regardless of when you begin your holiday shopping, celebrations and travels, it's never too early to think about some basic winter holiday safety tips. This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Remember: crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, especially because it can be an opportune time for crime. Homes jam-packed with gifts. Stores, malls and commercial streets teeming with shoppers. People rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done. It can be enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy. But the MPDC offers a number of tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season. The tips include safe shopping, protecting your vehicle and celebrating responsibly. And remember, if you're traveling this holiday season, take a few minutes to help secure your home and your property while you're gone.

NEWS & NOTES

Thanksgiving Schedule. Most administrative offices of the MPDC will be closed on Thursday, November 24, 2005, for the Thanksgiving holiday, but will be open for regular hours on Friday, November 25. Neighborhood patrols and other essential services will be fully staffed on both days.

Join Your Police District Listserv. Each police district now has a listserv dedicated to community policing and public safety issues. To find out what police district you live in, and to access your community's listserv, go to the following page, then click on the appropriate police district http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,Q,543336,mpdcNav_GID,1523,.asp

20 New Detectives Promoted. The MPDC's investigative ranks are being enhanced with the promotion of 20 members to the rank of Detective – Grade 1. The newly promoted detectives recently completed their training and were sworn in to their new positions during a graduation ceremony on Friday. The detectives are being assigned to various investigative units in the Department.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

- ① Get the latest photo radar results at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548110,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,131886|.asp
- ① For more information about photo radar in DC, including the locations of cameras, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547970,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp
- ① Red-light running at intersections equipped with safety cameras is down 67.5 percent in DC. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp
- ① For a complete list of safety suggestions, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547767,mpdcNav_GID,1550,mpdcNav,|.asp
- ① Interested in a presentation on holiday safety or other crime prevention topics? Contact Sergeant Terri Alexander, Community Outreach Section, at (202) 727-0783 or terri.alexander@dc.gov.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 11/18/05
◆ 2005: 170	
◆ 2004: 179	
◆ % Change: -5.0%	
◆ Closure Rate: 55.9% (95 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 11/12/05
◆ Total: 810	
◆ Drugs: 117	
◆ Weapons: 25	
◆ Robbery: 4	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 47	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 11/12/05
◆ Arrests: 60	
◆ Curfew Violations: 46	
◆ Truants: 91	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 11/16/05
◆ November: 92	
◆ 2005 Total: 2,081	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 11/18/05
◆ 2005: 42	
◆ 2004: 42	
◆ % Change: Unch.	

mpdc.dc.gov